



# Radio Scouting events at **Camp La-No-Che** 41940 Boy Scout Rd, Paisley, FL 32767 Newsletter 2020Q2-Jan - [www.RadioScouting.US](http://www.RadioScouting.US)



While scouts haven't been meeting since March through June, we've accomplished a lot this spring. We did forty (40) Radio Merit Badges prior to Covid-19 in February and March, three (3) youth are working on their Tech class.

### This Issues Highlights

- Scout ham trailer (60ft mast) got an upgrade
- Next project is a 5x5x5 cube baby trailer
- Our new Ebay Store to support our program

### Thank you:

The Orlando Amateur Radio Club, OARC donated a FT-891 for our Scout Hambox project (whole shack/sdr comp in an amman). The demo presentation was supposed to be at Dayton but we'll keep working on it and bring it around. Also a thank you to Roger Weed KL7HOT (LARA) for a Hustler 5-BTV antenna donation. We are working to secure a permanent location for it at camp.



### Donated Items & our new Ebay Store:

We now have an ebay store: <https://www.ebay.com/usr/radioscouting> If you have gear that you don't need but want to support scouts with it let us know ([RadioScoutingUS@gmail.com](mailto:RadioScoutingUS@gmail.com)). We will try to use what is donated first and sell-off what can't be used. If it's something you know we can't use but still want to help, ebay allows you to directly donate the proceeds to charity and they waive the seller fees. If you look at our webstore, you'll find more than ham stuff. Several local contractors have donated various excess items and it helps to fund our program.

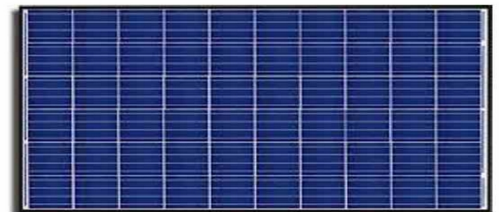
### Needs:

- Low-end UHF duplexors, i.e. FUMI 50 watt UHF for GMRS and Ham
- Mobile units, 15-50 watts for ham & GMRS
- Old PC's, Tablets to refurbish for echolink stations

### 60ft Mast Trailer Upgrade:

Our scout ham trailer/60ft mast got a free upgrade during the spring. A new enclosed storage area with two large workstation windows was added, 5ft high x 6ft wide x 8ft long. Once youth programs restart we'd like to get some young helpers to sand & repaint the metal frame. The goal is to have the 3' wide drop-down windows be pull-out equipment bay desks so we can work right off the trailer without setup. We could use some elmers for station/shack desk design. [Think county/sheriff command center setup, but as a walkup window, on each side.] Special thanks to DJ Welding & Fabrication for providing the construction/labor and Secure4U.net for covering the \$1k material costs.

A Florida based solar panel company is offering us a 6 KW foldout [like a shade awning] system (~\$10k value) to mount on the trailer, at-cost. **We're trying to raise about \$3k to cover the materials, 48v batteries and shipping.** This will add another level of STEM education for our scouts and expand our trailers usefulness at events and after disasters.



### Baby Trailer:

Mimi's Community Theatre donated a 5x5x5 cube baby trailer for our use. It has extensive wood damage so the storage area needs to be rebuilt in metal to match our big trailer. This trailer is intended for small troop level events & presentations. The plan is just one full ham workstation and a short 20-30ft push-up mast for HF, VHF, UHF.

### Up-Coming Events:

- October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 – JOTA like weekends
- October 17 – Actual JOTA, Official World Jamboree-on-the-air weekend.
- December 11<sup>th</sup> Tampa Bay Hamfest in Plant City
- December 12<sup>th</sup> Radio Merit Badge class at the Hamfest

**Events:** Due to covid our Spring and Summer calendar was canceled so we are now getting ready for every weekend in October, including JOTA/ Jamboree-on-the-air... we'll need many more hams to help fill stations and display various setups. This JOTA year Parks-on-the-air (POTA) will be our center piece led by Justin, KN4MQR and mobile rigs led by Larry KN4LSY. We're anticipating five (5) Saturdays each with ~2k scouts for over 10k participants this October. Last year we had 7,800 participants in October with 1,503 for Jota weekend. For a yearly total of 12,300 participants in 2019... All our participants learned SOS in Morse code and a bit about radio, tech and our STEM programs.

### On-going Projects:

- **Grants-** In an effort to get more funding and grants we need to get our **free membership** up to 1000 members, [www.radioscouting.us/J](http://www.radioscouting.us/J) (it's just a monthly newsletter, like this one).
- **Scholarships-** I'm pleased to announce that my workplace is continuing their offer of a **\$100 collage scholarship for scouts that get their FCC Ham License (HA/HV)**. Still working to get a corporate sponsor to cover a free HT radio (i.e. btech UV-82) for scouts that get their Tech License (~\$20/ea).
- **Scout Camp Repeater project-** I'm collecting mobile radios (15 - 50watt) both ham and GMRS for a mailed repeater box to connect hundreds of scout camps. Think east coast reflector, but with ~250 scout camps on both ham and gmrs freqs. (Anyone have any Midland corp contacts?) First step is a prototype for Orlando and Tampa and linking the two.
- **Scout HamBox project-** is nearly completed, a mobile HF/50/VHF/UHF/SDR 0-2GHz all in a box with a wifi tablet GUI (currently being tested) and mic. (special thanks to Orlando Amateur Radio Club for donating an FT-891 for the HF/50) We'll seek corporate sponsors to underwrite their ~\$2k cost so we can loan/issue them to new General Class scouts at the troop level for campouts. This will allow individual troops to bring a portable base station on campouts and use HT's for roaming [licenced] patrol leaders. They will also be able to do their own JOTA and international contact requirements at the troop level.

### We're collecting names! Hams, BSA councilors, supporters, scouters.

- Hams: If you are willing to assist in a merit badge, or do field day type demos for youth, we want you!
- BSA Councilors: We are trying to gather contact information for all the Radio Merit Badge councilors in our state, we'd like to co-ordinate some large merit badge classes.
- Supporters: We get grants based on the number of members and participants we have, join now!
- Scouters: If you support STEM and are willing to assist we can use extra leadership at some events for YPT.

So sign-up here: <http://www.radioscouting.us/join.shtml> (your info will not be sold or shared, just a monthly email newsletter.)

We're still working on a list of all the councils in the US that have an active radio scouting program. It's hoped that we can schedule inter-council events in addition to the annual JOTA. <http://www.radioscouting.us/radio-scouting-programs.shtml>

### Our mission statement:

Radio Scouting, Inc., (wB4SA) is the amateur radio station and club of the Boy Scouts of America, Central Florida Council. It shall be our purpose to further the exchange of information and cooperation between the public and scouting, to promote radio knowledge, youth activities, fraternalism, individual operating efficiency, and to conduct programs and activities as to advance the general interest and welfare of Amateur Radio and Scouting in the community.



All our events are free of charge and we get no funding from BSA National or council.  
Thank you to all our volunteers, sponsors and supporters!

Ken Lyons, KN4MDJ

Radio Scouting, Inc. is a IRS 501(c)3 non-profit charity to promote radio knowledge and youth activities for scouting and the community. [www.RadioScouting.US](http://www.RadioScouting.US)  
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